



Colonial Update



Shrewsbury High School Newsletter

Nov 2004

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Shrewsbury High School is a big place! Our October 1st enrollment shows that we have 1,420 students in grades nine through twelve, an increase of over 100 students from last year. Having a school this size means that we can provide a variety of challenging and diverse curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students. But a large school also means that we must work hard to create a sense of belonging and community for each student. The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) recommends that all high schools plan for ways to connect students to their learning and to one another. NASSP suggest that schools must work to personalize the experience for each student by:

- Creating structures so that students cannot remain anonymous for four years;
- Creating structures in which the aspirations, strengths, weaknesses, interests, and level of progress of each student are well known by at least one adult;
- Providing opportunities for students to learn about the values associated with life in a civil and democratic society, their responsibilities within that society, and the ability to exercise those values within the school. (Excerpted from *Breaking Ranks II: Strategies for Leading High School Reform*. National Association of Secondary Schools Principals. (2004) Reston, VA: Author)

Building and sustaining positive interactions between adults and students is critical in a school like ours. One way we are trying to build community at Shrewsbury High School is through our homeroom program.

We have retooled and refocused our homeroom period so that each student spends more time each week with a teacher who will stay with his or her assigned homeroom for the four-year period. There are two 18-minute homeroom periods each week that allow students to get caught up on school news and business as well as connect with the homeroom teacher. For some students, homeroom provides downtime in the midst of a hectic school day. For others, homeroom is a time to connect to a caring adult who takes a genuine interest in a student's grades and activities. The overall goal is to promote a sense of

a smaller community within the larger school community so that students feel connected to one another and an adult.

Additionally, each homeroom has elected a representative who will join the other homeroom representatives on a quarterly basis to meet with the high school administration to discuss issues of concern and share ideas about the larger school community. Frequent dialogue, positive interactions, and mutual respect and understanding between students, teachers, and administrators can only help promote a caring and responsive school community.

We will also use homeroom to discuss important concerns. For example, during the month of November students will spend time in homeroom discussing the issue of cheating and plagiarism. We will watch an excerpt from an ABC News special entitled *Caught Cheating*, and hold a candid conversation about cheating and academic dishonesty at SHS. The goal is to promote conversation about fairness, ethical behavior, and academic integrity. Inside this edition of Colonial Update, you will find a reprint of the high school's cheating guidelines taken from the 2004-05 Student/Parent handbook and Planner. I encourage you to review this with your son or daughter so that, together, we can address this important issue.

As always, I welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions as we work together to ensure the best possible education for our students. I can be reached at (508) 841-8808 or dgutekanst@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gutekanst, Ed.D
Principal

The Shrewsbury High School community provides challenging, diverse learning opportunities; promotes creativity and independent thinking; and empowers students to become capable, caring, active contributors to the world in which they live.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating is obtaining information or copying another's work for the purpose of presenting it as one's own work, or providing information to others who have not acquired it through work of their own. The high school faculty considers **plagiarism** to be the intentional use of material (from books, magazines, the Internet, journals, electronic media, etc.) without proper documentation; this includes copying of papers, paragraphs, ideas, parts of sentences, sentences, and calling the work one's own. Paraphrasing material without proper documentation is also plagiarism. Both cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable, dishonest, and indicate a lack of integrity. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in the following disciplinary action:

1. If a teacher determines that a cheating or plagiarism incident has occurred, the teacher will assign a zero to the student(s) involved. Additionally, the teacher must inform the student's parents, guidance counselor, department director, and grade administrator and the action taken regarding the incident. The guidance counselor will record the incident in the student's file. The student has a right to appeal the teacher's action to the department director. The principal may send a letter to the student expressing his concern about the incident.
2. In the event a student is responsible for two or more incidents of cheating or plagiarism within the same course, the student will be assigned a failing grade for the specific assignment and a failing grade for the quarter in which the most recent incident occurred. The teacher will inform the student's parents, guidance counselor, grade administrator, and principal of the incident and the action taken. The principal will send a letter to the student and parents explaining his concern about the most recent incident; a copy of the letter and any action taken will become part of the student's file.
3. In the event a student is responsible for a cheating or plagiarism incident involving other students or multiple incidences of cheating or plagiarism involving more than one teacher during the school year or over the time of the student's high school career, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment(s) and a failing grade for the course(s) in the quarter in which the incident occurred. Additionally, the student faces disciplinary action, including suspension from school. The teacher(s) will inform the student's parents, guidance counselor, grade administrator, and principal of the incident and the action taken. The principal will send a letter to the student and parent about the incident and hold a parent meeting to discuss the student's actions and make plans to assist the student. A copy of the letter and any action taken will become part of the student's file.

Do You Need Health Coverage Or Help Paying For It ?

Did you know that health coverage is an important part of your child's success at school? Having health coverage means knowing your children will be able to get health care they need and can help relieve the stress of wondering how to pay for it. In Massachusetts, there are several low-cost and free health coverage programs available to families and children through MassHealth. In fact, MassHealth also offers programs specifically designed for working families. For example, if you are working but feel your private insurance is too expensive, MassHealth may be able to pay for part of your premium costs.

If your children do not qualify, they may be able to get coverage through the Children's Medical Security Plan. These programs can help cover costs of check-ups, sports physicals, prescription medication, and emergency care. To apply or to learn more, please contact your local health center or hospital.

To find local health center, call 1-800-475-8455

To find a hospital, visit:

<http://www.mhalink.org/public/mahospitals/index.shtml>

Or, call 1-877 KIDS NOW

Foreign Language Department

The foreign language department wishes to formally thank the following parents for their willingness to help out with our recent curriculum review: Cathy Rocheleau, Joann McCarthy and Debbi Stefani.

Your participation not only helped us to showcase our department but it also provided us with some good feedback for future improvement. We all appreciate your time and effort.

Joyce Gallo Teggart
Director of Foreign Language 5-12



FROM THE PARENT FORUM COORDINATORS

We would like to extend our gratitude to all of those who brought baked goods to the Open House. The hungry parents gobbled up all of the delicious treats between visiting their children's classrooms. We will be calling for bakers again to provide the teachers with "Holiday Treats" each Wednesday in December. Congratulations to our teachers who were awarded professional status this year. Two high school parents had the privilege of attending a reception in their honor.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events.

PARENT FORUM MEETINGS will be held at 7:00 pm in the Commons (SHS) on the following dates:

- **November 4** - The New SAT: What it is and what to expect.
- **January 13** - A Parent to Parent Discussion about Drugs, Alcohol, and Teen Partyng
- **February 10** - For Freshman and Sophomore Parents: Looking Ahead at College

PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE – Thursday, November 18 at 7:45 am.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities for parents to become involved with Shrewsbury High School. Please contact any Parent Forum member or the individual listed if you are able to spare some time.

- **Attendance Office** .help contact parents of students who are listed as absent and have not called into the school with a reason. Call Beverly at 841-8807
- **Staff Appreciation Activities** .planning and executing events in December and March for the SHS Staff. Call Lisa at 842-7133.
- **Baking for Events** .we need volunteers to make/buy "goodies" for open house and staff appreciation. Call Lisa at 842-7133.
- **Newsletter Collators** .meet one morning each month to fold, tape, and attach address labels to newsletters in preparation for bulk mailing. Call Nancy at 842-4557.
- **Junior After Prom Party** .planning, executing, and chaperoning

this special late spring event.

- **Clerical/Office Assistant** .sign up for a few hours weekly to help the office staff. Call Beverly at 841-8807.
- **Service Learning Advisory Board** .a working board that helps with exciting service learning projects.
- **Service Learning Activity Drivers** .help to transport students to various local service projects.

Remember to stay involved and volunteer. Your participation truly strengthens SHS. We are interested in hearing your ideas, concerns and comments. Thank you for your continued support.

Warmly,

Nancy Donahue	842-4557
Lisa Easson	842-7133
Angela Grip	842-9104
Joanne Hubbard	842-4895
Karin Hutt	842-2392
Penny McLaren	842-0143
Laurie Neumann	842-7718
Deborah Peebles	842-8693
Regina Pialtos	842-7818
Kathleen Thompson	842-1827
Marianne Upton	842-4175



Yearbook Order Deadline Friday, November 5, 2004

No orders will be accepted after the deadline. Don't miss out on this opportunity to order a 2005 yearbook. We will not have extra copies at the end of the year for sale. Forms are available at the School Store and from Mrs. O'Leary. The cost of the 2005 yearbook is \$30. You must make a deposit of at least \$10 to reserve your copy. Return forms and payments to Mrs. O'Leary.

Upcoming Calendar

	Dream Team Food Drive thru 1/23		
11/03	School Committee Mtg.	TH	07:00pm
11/03	Freshman Math Meet	Away	03:00pm
11/04	SL: Video Game Comp.	Com	06:30pm
11/04	Parent Forum	Com	07:00pm
11/06	SATs	SHS	08:00am
11/09	1st Quarter Ends		
11/03	Speech & Debate	B300's	06:30pm
11/11	Veterans' Day - NO SCHOOL		
11/14	Volleyball Potluck Dinner	Com	05:30pm
11/15	FR: Academic Support Candy Sale to 12/3		
11/16	Speech & Debate	B300's	06:30pm
11/17	School Committee Mtg.	TH	07:00pm
11/17	Field Hockey Break Away Party	Com	06:30pm
11/18	Principal's Coffee		07:45am
11/18	Fall Play-Sr. Citizen Performance	Aud	06:00pm
11/19	Fall One Act Plays	Aud	07:00pm
11/20	Fall One Act Plays	Aud	07:00pm
11/21	Fall One Act Plays	Aud	02:00pm
11/21	FR: Robotic Pie Auction	Com	09:00am
11/22	Dr. Bent's China Presentation	PR	07:25am
11/23	Speech & Debate	B300's	06:30pm
11/24	1/2 Day		
11/25	Thanksgiving - NO SCHOOL		
11/26	Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL		
11/30	Speech & Debate	B300's	06:30pm
12/01	Teddy Bear Drive until 12/15		
12/01	Varsity & Freshman Math Meet	Home	03:00pm
12/01	School Committee Mtg.	TH	07:00pm
12/02	Financial Aid Night	Aud	07:00pm
12/03	Rock Stock	Com	06:30pm
12/04	Speech & Debate Tournament	Away	08:00am
12/05	Fall Sports Night	Aud	07:00pm
12/07	SPS Music Association	CR	07:15pm
12/07	Speech & Debate	B300's	06:30pm
12/10	Lip Sync Dance-Sophomore Class	Com	07:00pm

Please note that dates and times are subject to change.

Aud - Auditorium Com - Commons CR-Conf. Room

TD - Teacher's Dining Rm.

PR - Presentation Room

TH - Town Hall

MC - Media

**COLLEGE FINANCING SEMINAR****TO BE HELD AT**

Shrewsbury High School

Thursday, December 2, 2004

7-9:00p.m.

Interested in learning about financing a higher education and the financial aid process? Join us for a college financing seminar on Thursday, December 2, 2004 from 7-9:00p.m. at Shrewsbury High School. A representative from the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) will discuss various aspects of financial aid and the process parents and students go through when applying to college. The seminar will teach parents how to fill out financial aid application forms, the process of filing the appropriate forms, how financial aid is calculated and awarded, how to compare financial aid award letters, and make alternate financing decisions.

For more information, contact the Guidance Department, 508-841-8813, at Shrewsbury High School.

A Word from your Newsletter Coordinator:

The deadline for the December Issue of Colonial Update is Monday, November 15, 2004. To ensure your article is included, please submit your contribution on or before the due date. Information received after the due date, may or may not be in the Colonial Update. All information should be submitted in an electronic format. Word is the preferred file format. If you have any questions, please email me prior to the due date.

Thank you,

Jean Sullivan
Newsletter Coordinator





Presenting the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes in Boston!

Join the Shrewsbury Alumni Association for a Fundraiser To Support the Student Grants Program at Shrewsbury High School.

Date: Thursday, December 23
Bus leaves from Shrewsbury High School at 6p.m.
Show starts at 8p.m.
Travel in comfort - Coach Bus

Price: \$90 Including ticket and bus transportation
Checks Only. Payable to SHS Alumni Association
Limited Seating -- purchase your tickets early

For Rockettes Ticket Order Form:

- Visit shrewsburyalumni.org, fill out, and mail the downloadable form with your payment.
- Go to the Shrewsbury Children's Center at 138 N. Quinsigamond Ave. or Donahue Industries on Route 9 across from the bowling alley.
- Contact Mary Rose Casey at 508-755-3922 or maryrosecasey@townisp.com.
- Complete the form in this newsletter and mail with your pay-

SHS Alumni News



New! Bulletin Board

<http://shrewsburyalumni.org/ForumLite/>

Shrewsbury Historian Mike Perna Releases New Title

Historian Mike Perna recently released Lake Quinsigamond and White City Amusement Park. Buy the book:

<http://www.shrewsburyalumni.org>

Social Planner Wanted

The Shrewsbury High School Alumni Association is looking for a Social Planner to put together an alumni social with the help of the alumni association. If you are interested in becoming the Social Planner, e-mail info@shrewsburyalumni.org.



Celebrate Shrewsbury!
Spirit of Shrewsbury Fall Festival
September 24 & 25

www.spiritofshrewsbury.com